

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An electronic image pickup apparatus comprising:

a taking lens unit including a plurality of lenses;

an image pickup device for effecting photoelectric conversion of an object light after passing through the taking lens unit;

recording means for recording image pickup signal obtained by effecting photoelectric conversion at the image pickup device; and

said taking lens unit comprising between the lenses optical axis alteration means for altering the direction of image pickup optical axis, wherein [[and]] said taking lens unit is disposed right in front on the object side of an image display section for displaying an image located on a back surface of an apparatus body.

Claim 2 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising means for adjusting quantity of light, mechanically adjusting the quantity of light passing through the taking lens unit and provided between the optical axis alteration means located within said taking lens unit and the image pickup device.

Claim 3 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a lens displacing mechanism for displacing lenses in the direction of the optical axis thereof between the optical axis alteration means located within said taking lens unit and the image pickup device.

Claim 4 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said taking lens unit is disposed in the apparatus body such that an image pickup optical axis altered by said optical axis alteration means is plumb in the posture of the apparatus body at the time of a customary taking of image and wherein said image pickup device is disposed in the vicinity of the bottom surface of the apparatus body.

Claim 5 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 4 further comprising an electric circuit board mainly mounting an image pickup circuit for processing image pickup signal of said image pickup device located between said image pickup device and the bottom surface of the apparatus body.

Claim 6 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said taking lens unit is disposed in the apparatus body such that an image pickup optical axis altered by said optical axis alteration means is horizontal in the posture of the apparatus body at the time of a customary taking of image.

Claim 7 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an electric circuit board mainly mounting an image pickup circuit for processing image pickup signal of said image pickup device located between the taking lens unit and the image displaying section.

Claim 8 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 6 further comprising an electric circuit board mainly mounting an image pickup circuit for processing image pickup signal of said image pickup device located between the taking lens unit and the image displaying section.

Claim 9 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising means for cutting unwanted external light in the vicinity of part of said taking lens unit upon which an object light is incident.

Claim 10 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 9, wherein a part of said means for cutting unwanted external light comprises an end edge portion of a taking lens protection cover disposed in front of said taking lens unit and provided as displaceable between a position for concealing the taking lens unit and a position for opening the same.

Claim 11 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said means for cutting unwanted external light is integrally formed as a protrusion on an external enclosure portion of the apparatus body.

Claim 12 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 3 further comprising a driving source for driving said lens displacing mechanism disposed on a lateral side of the taking lens unit.

Claim 13 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising an image pickup device displacing mechanism for displacing said image pickup device along the axis of light incident upon the image pickup surface.

Claim 14 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said optical axis alteration means comprises a reflecting mirror having IR cut film vapor-deposited thereon.

Claim 15 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said optical axis alteration means comprises a beam splitter for splitting an incident light into a plurality of components, rays of light reflected at a semi-transparent surface of the beam splitter

entering the image pickup device and rays of light after passing through the semi-transparent surface of the beam splitter entering an optical finder for visually recognizing an object.

Claim 16 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said optical axis alteration means comprises a beam splitter for splitting an incident light into a plurality of components, rays of light reflected at a semi-transparent surface of the beam splitter entering the image pickup device and rays of light after passing through the semi-transparent surface of the beam splitter entering an optical finder for visually recognizing an object.

Claim 17 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said optical axis alteration means is movable between a first position for altering direction of an object light to cause an incidence thereof upon the image pickup device and a second position retracting itself from the path of rays of the incident light to allow entering of the object light into an optical finder for visually recognizing the object.

Claim 18 (original): The electronic image pickup apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said optical axis alteration means is movable between a first position for altering direction of an object light to cause an incidence thereof upon the image pickup device and a second position retracting itself from the path of rays of the incident light to allow entering of the object light into an optical finder for visually recognizing the object.